

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FISHLAKE

National Forest

1
F769Fi
1962
Reserve

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

AUG 9 - 1963

C & R-PREP.



2. M.S.S.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE,
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, OGDEN, UTAH

THE FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

26557

In central Utah near the southern end of the Great Salt Lake Basin lies the Fishlake National Forest - 1½ million acres of mountainous watershed land. Consisting of four separate large blocks of land, the Forest straddles three longitudinal strips of the High Utah Plateaus including part of the Wasatch, Aquarius, Sevier, and Tushar Plateaus and all of the Fish Lake and Pahvant Plateaus. The tops of these plateaus are relatively small in area and generally flat or with gently rolling hills. The great bulk of their area lies between the plateau rim and the valleys, and is notched by canyons radiating from the rims. Elevations range from about 5,500 feet to about 11,000 feet.

The Forest derives its name from Fish Lake. About six miles long and a mile wide, this productive lake was so named for the large number of trout found in its waters. To the early settlers and Indians, fish from this lake was an important food item.

HISTORY

On February 10, 1899, the Fish Lake Forest Reserve was established by proclamation of President McKinley. By act of Congress approved March 4, 1907, the name Forest Reserve was changed to National Forest, and the administration of these lands was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. By subsequent Presidential proclamations, all of three National Forests and part of one were added to the Fish Lake National Forest. In 1908 the name was made one word - Fishlake.

The Fishlake National Forest was established at the request of those living in the surrounding valleys. These people were concerned about their damaged and deteriorating watersheds. Because of overgrazing, uncontrolled fires, and indiscriminate logging, the mountains were badly depleted of vegetation. As a result, summer rains falling on the mountains brought floods to the valleys, damaging farms, irrigation projects, and other property.

RECREATION

A large variety of outdoor recreation experiences is available on the Fishlake National Forest. Picnicking, camping, hiking, boating, hunting, fishing, and sightseeing are popular summer outdoor diversions for local folks from the nearby valleys and tourists traveling from distant areas.

Sites for camping and picnicking have been developed for public use at convenient locations. Picnicking is permitted in all areas. Camping is not permitted in areas designated for picnicking only.

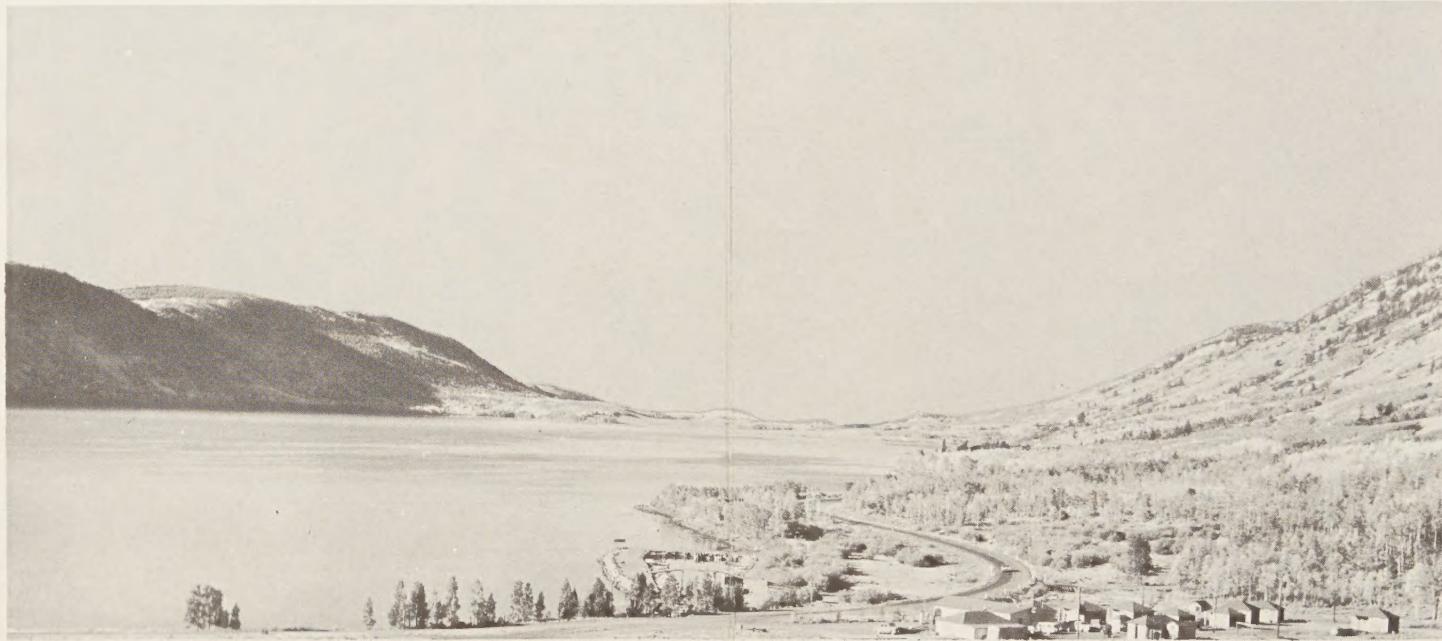
To meet demands for outdoor recreation, more than 22 campgrounds and picnic sites have been developed. Designed to maintain a natural atmosphere, the facilities are limited to those necessary for the protection of the Forest and your health and safety. The table of recreation sites lists the larger and more popular sites and the facilities at each.

Outstanding among the recreation areas is beautiful Fish Lake. It occupies a depression caused by geologic faulting. Glacial deposits dam the north end. This unique body of water covers more than

2,600 acres. Maximum depth is over 120 feet, and 70% of the area is over 90 feet deep. Its high elevation – 8800 feet – insures continually cool weather even during the warmest summer days. Its aspen-covered shores and crystal clear water backed by stately mountains invite one to savor the delights of a mountain vacation. Rainbow and mackinaw trout abound in the lake and because of its continual coolness the fish are always tops for eating as well as sporting to catch. Trails to the mountain top provide the horseman or hiker a breathtaking view which will be long remembered.

There is good fishing on many of the small streams throughout the Forest. Some of the best fishing streams are Beaver River, Clear Creek, Fish Creek, Monroe Creek, Salina Creek, Gooseberry Creek, Seven Mile Creek, U. M. Creek, and the Fremont River. There is good fishing in several small lakes and reservoirs also. However, the most popular and most productive fishing area is Fish Lake.

Enjoy your National Forest and help keep it clean, green, and free from fire.



Fish Lake has good accommodations for a family outing. You can hike, fish, or just relax and enjoy the beauty of the out-of-doors.



Breathtaking scenery can be viewed from roads designed and constructed for the use and benefit of all National Forest users - hunters and fishermen, campers and picnickers, livestockmen and timber operators.

INFORMATION

For information concerning the Fishlake National Forest, write or visit the office of the Forest Supervisor in Richfield, Utah, or Ranger offices in Richfield, Fillmore, Kanosh, Beaver, Salina, and Loa. Your visit will be welcomed.

SERVICES

Cabins and boats are available at three resorts near Fish Lake. Groceries, gasoline, and meals can also be obtained here. Most communities near the Forest have good motels and cafes. Riding horses can be rented in many communities.

TIMBER

Before establishment of the National Forest, "timber management" was unthought of. Cutting of timber was indiscriminate and forest fires burned uncontrolled and without attention. Nevertheless timber production from what is now the Fishlake National Forest played a very important role in the early days of settlement and development of nearby valleys. It was the principal source of material used for homes, furniture, bridges, tools, and many other products that the hardy pioneer people could make from wood.

Under National Forest Management, timber products are sold to the highest bidder and the Forest Ranger designates the trees to be cut. Fires, when they occur, are quickly controlled. Although the annual harvest of timber on the Fishlake National Forest is relatively small, about 3½ million board feet, this timber makes a substantial contribution to the local and national economy. Timber cut here is milled and shipped to California and other western and midwestern markets.

Principal timber species found on the Forest are Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, Douglas and alpine fir, and quaking aspen. The larger stands grow at the higher elevations. Timber on middle and lower slopes is confined to drainage bottoms and north slopes.

As with other resources, timber is managed on a sustained-yield basis to insure a continuous and sustained annual harvest of timber products.



Mule deer abound on the Fishlake National Forest furnishing sport to more than 20,000 hunters annually.

LIFEBLOOD OF THE LAND

Water is the priceless resource on which all growing things depend. Where there are ample supplies of good water, towns and cities prosper and farms thrive. When water supplies fail, farms are abandoned, towns and cities shrivel and often die.

The valley lands near the Fishlake National Forest have blossomed with wealth producing orchards and fields; towns and cities have sprung up and industries have become established — all made possible by water from the mountain streams.

In the arid and semi-arid valleys of the West, nature is lavish with sunshine but niggardly with moisture. Here the mountains are humid islands rising abruptly from desert valleys. Warm, humid air from distant oceans is forced upward and cooled to precipitate its moisture.

Under ideal conditions this precipitation percolates gently into the soil. That which is excess to the needs of the vegetation, seeps gradually to lower elevations, recharging underground water supplies emerging eventually as cool, clear springs and streams. It is thus that intermittent precipitation is converted into permanent stream flow making human habitation of the desert-like valleys possible.

The Fishlake National Forest is an important source of water for both the Colorado River and the Great Basin Drainage contributing to the wealth and prosperity of three states: Utah, Nevada, and California.

In Utah the watersheds of the Fishlake National Forest provide water for numerous farms, and are the major source of water for 26 communities and five hydro-electric plants.

MINERALS

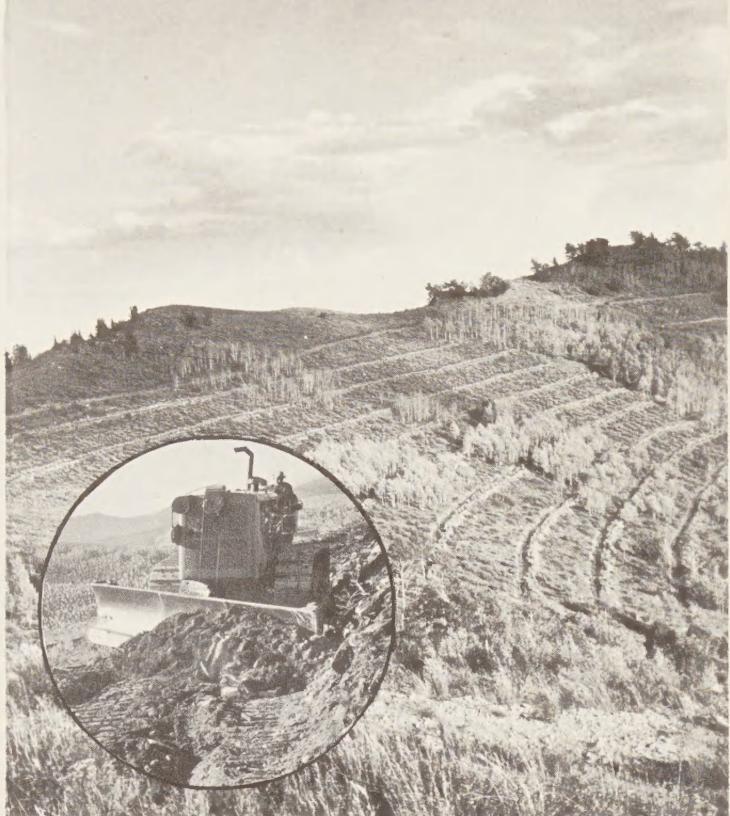
Nearly all of the Fishlake National Forest is open to mineral prospecting and development under the general mining laws. There are several mines in the Forest producing coal, alunite, gold, and silver.

Exploration and development for gas and oil continues at a rapid pace. While no wells are now producing, much seismic exploration is underway and several exploratory wells have been drilled. Over 300,000 acres are now under lease for oil and gas exploration.

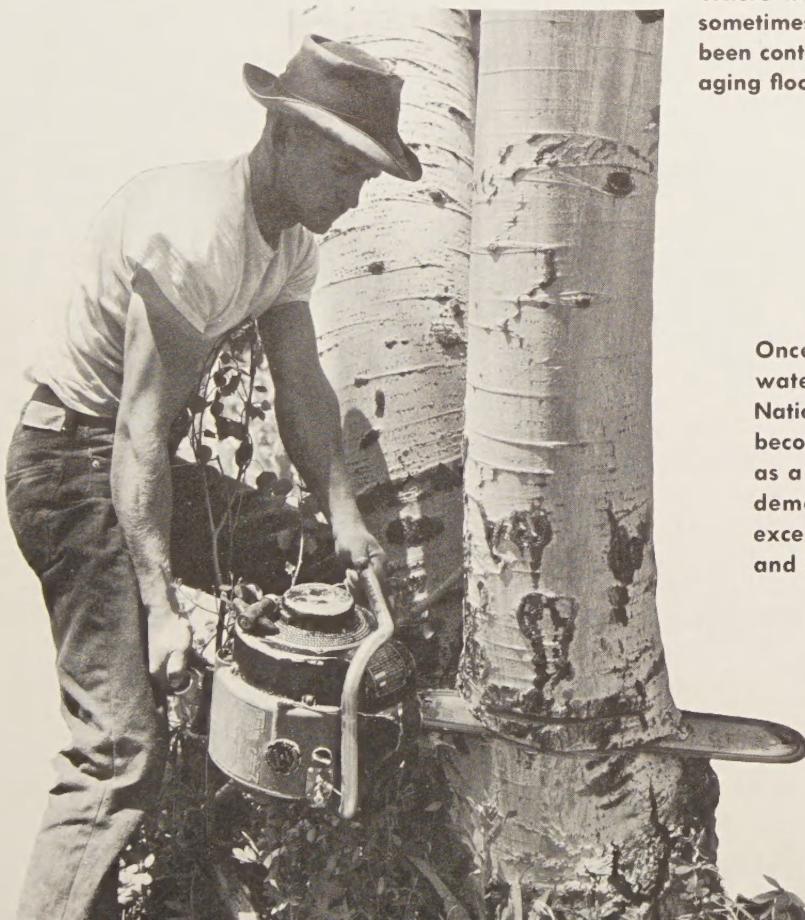
PREVENT FOREST FIRES

Fire destroys generations of timber growth, consumes grasses and browse plants needed for forage by livestock and wildlife, exposes the watershed to devastating erosion and mars the scenic and recreation values of the mountains.

Please be careful with fire and keep our National Forests green.



Where watersheds have been damaged, drastic action is sometimes required. Here the slopes above Fillmore have been contour-trenched to help prevent recurrence of damaging floods.



Once considered useful only for watershed cover on the Fishlake National Forest, quaking aspen is becoming increasingly important as a timber species. It is now in demand for the production of excelsior and core stock for doors and furniture.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife abounds on the Fishlake National Forest and provides excellent opportunities for fishing and hunting. The Forest is famous throughout Utah and the West for its large and highly productive deer herds. In 1961, approximately 20,000 deer were harvested by 20,000 hunters during regular and special hunts. Of the hunters afield 5,000 were from out of state, principally California.

On the Fish Lake Plateau a small elk herd flourishes, furnishing sport to about 400 hunters each year. Bear and mountain lion, although not regarded as game animals in Utah, are hunted in limited numbers partly as sport and partly to prevent predation on domestic and big game animals.

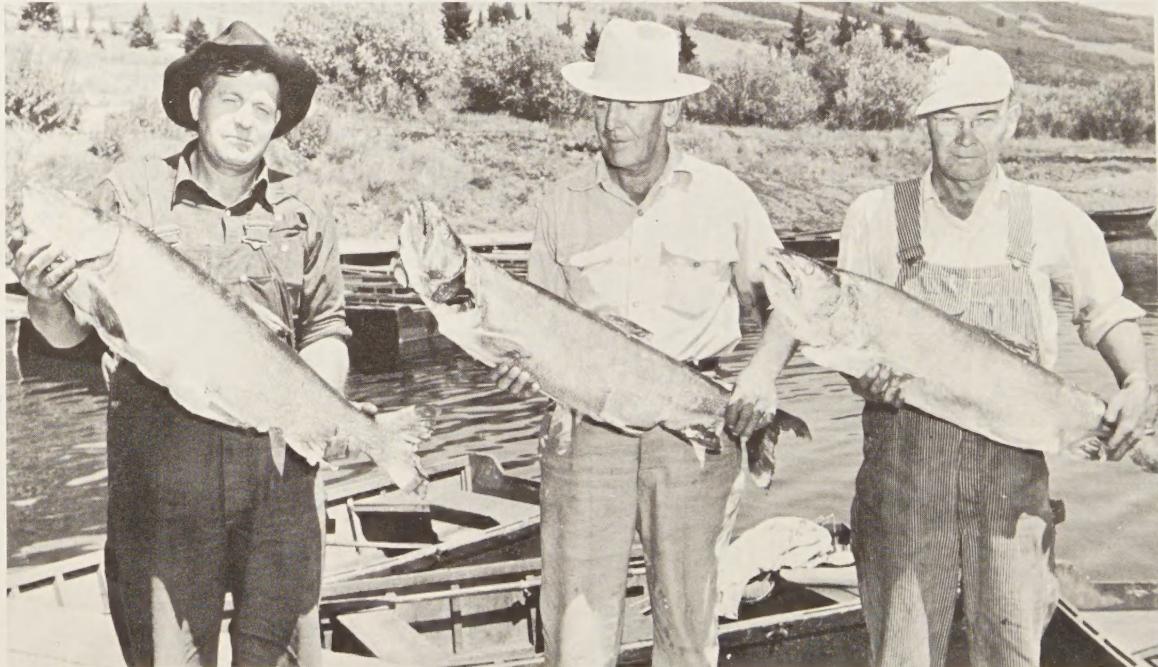
Among the wild animals in the Forest are badger, bobcat, coyote, fox, porcupine, and mink; and jack, cottontail, and snowshoe rabbits. Upland game birds are sage, ruffed, and blue grouse; and the recently introduced chukar partridge. Limited numbers of waterfowl are found on lakes and streams.

By law, the Forest Service is responsible for management of the land or wildlife habitat on the National Forests and the State is charged with the protection and management of wildlife populations. Wildlife is a crop and as such must be harvested in order to keep a balance between animal numbers and available food. The Forest Service and the Utah Department of Fish and Game work together in formulating wildlife management programs to give sportsmen the best of hunting and fishing on the Fishlake National Forest.

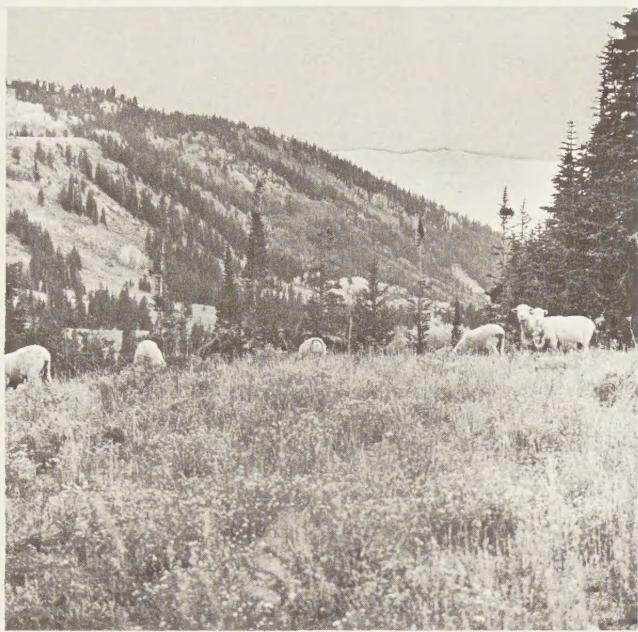


Water from the Fishlake National Forest converts many arid acres into wealth producing farms and orchards.

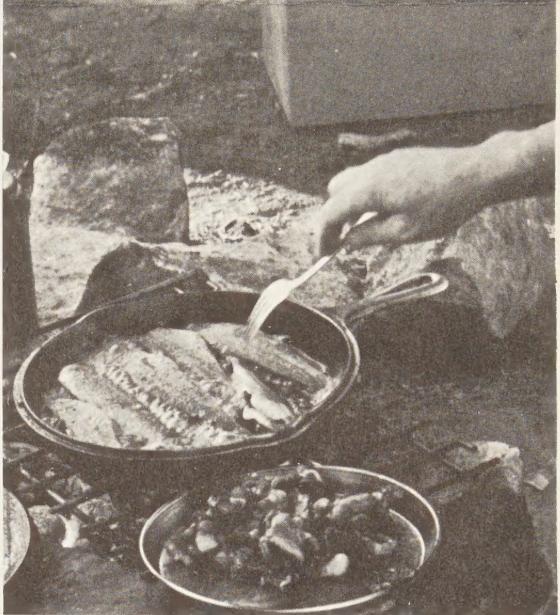
Fish Lake is famous for its Mackinaw trout. Several thousand are caught each year ranging in size from 1 to 35 pounds.



Utah Department of Fish and Game Photo



The forage resource is harvested by about 20,000 cattle and 35,000 sheep contributing to the income of more than 585 families in south-central Utah.



Many campers enjoy fish caught in the streams and lakes of the Fishlake National Forest.

SUMMER RANGES

When the early settlers arrived, tall grass grew in the valleys, foothills, and mountains, waving like fields of grain in gentle summer breezes. The mountains particularly produced a mixture of succulent vegetation providing excellent forage for summer grazing. The settlers' sheep and cattle thrived and a good and growing livestock business was established.

Later, about 1880, large bands of transient sheep began grazing the mountains each summer. These herds, driven to the mountains as early in the spring as the melting snow would allow, roamed the watersheds in unlimited numbers trampling the wet soil and consuming plants as fast as they grew. The best forage and soil binding plants were destroyed or reduced and inferior species replaced them. Soil was bared of vegetation and it lay naked and defenseless to the erosive forces of wind and water. Streams which had always been clear became debris- and silt-laden.

Recognizing the dangers to their water and forage resources, people living in the valleys became

alarmed and took action to have their watersheds managed and protected to prevent floods and damage to their water supplies and to stabilize the local livestock industry.

Following establishment of the Fishlake National Forest, transient livestock was eliminated and only stockmen owning nearby ranch property were issued grazing permits. Grazing units were established and permittees were assigned definite areas on which to graze their herds.

Where ranges are damaged, the objective is to rehabilitate them through grass seeding, development of additional stock watering facilities, fencing, control of juniper and sagebrush, and assigning proper numbers of animals to graze.

Livestock grazing is an important use of the Fishlake National Forest and about 20,000 cattle and 35,000 sheep owned by about 585 individuals graze upon the Forest each year. Stockmen are charged a nominal grazing fee based on the past year's selling price of livestock.

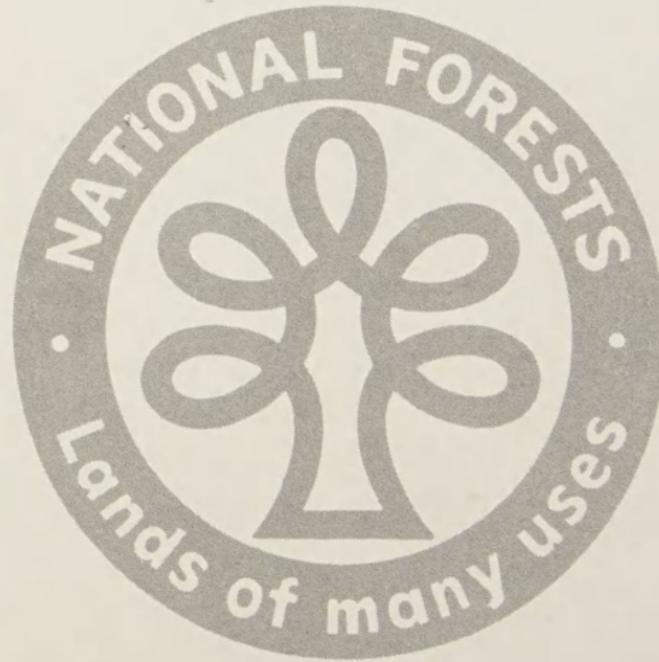
THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Lands of Many Uses

Multiple-use and sustained yield management of National Forests has a firm background in law, regulations, and policy. The Forest Service is directed by Congress under the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act (Public Law 86-517) to administer and manage all renewable resources (recreation, forage, timber, water, and wildlife habitat) for sustained and harmonious use.

The term "multiple use" means the management of all the renewable surface resources of the National Forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of all the American people.

Harmonious and coordinated management of outdoor recreation, forage, timber, watershed, and wildlife is achieved by giving consideration to their relative values, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.





PLEASE

only you
can prevent
forest fires

NAME	MAP NUMBER	MAP LOCATION	SEASON	CAMPING UNITS	FISHING BOATING	LAKE	BOATING	LAKES	STREAM
Plantation Flat	1	E3	6675	May-Oct.	4				
Oak Creek	2	E3	5900	May-Oct.	25	x			
Maple Hollow	3	F6	6900	May-Oct.	14	x	x		
Maple Grove	4	F7	6400	May-Oct.	18	x	x	x	
Copley Cove	5	E7	5700	May-Oct.	6	x	x	x	x
Shingle Mill	6	E7	6000	May-Oct.	5	x	x	x	x
Buckskin Charley	7	E7	6100	May-Oct.	3	x	x	x	x
Pistol Rock	8	E7	6100	May-Oct.	5	x	x	x	x
Meadow Creek	9	D8	6600	May-Oct.	5	x	x	x	x
Adelaide	10	D9	5500	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Gooseberry	11	J9	7800	May-Oct.	6	x	x	x	x
Pipe Springs	12	J8	6200	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Belknap	13	D11	5800	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Monrovia Park	14	F11	6320	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Bowery	15	I-11	8800	May-Oct.	47	x	x	x	x
Mackinaw	16	I-11	8800	May-Oct.	55	x	x	x	x
Twin Creek	17	I-11	8800	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Elkhorn	18	K12	9300	Jun.-Oct.	6	x	x	x	x
Sunglow	19	K13	7500	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Ponderosa	20	C14	7000	May-Oct.	*	x	x	x	x
Kents Lake	21	C14	7900	May-Oct.	17	x	x	x	x
City Creek	22	D14	7600	May-Oct.	8	x	x	x	x

NOTE: Picnicking is permitted in campgrounds while camping is not permitted in areas designated for picnicking only.

*Picnicking only.

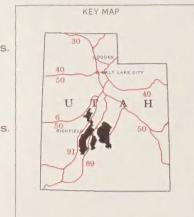
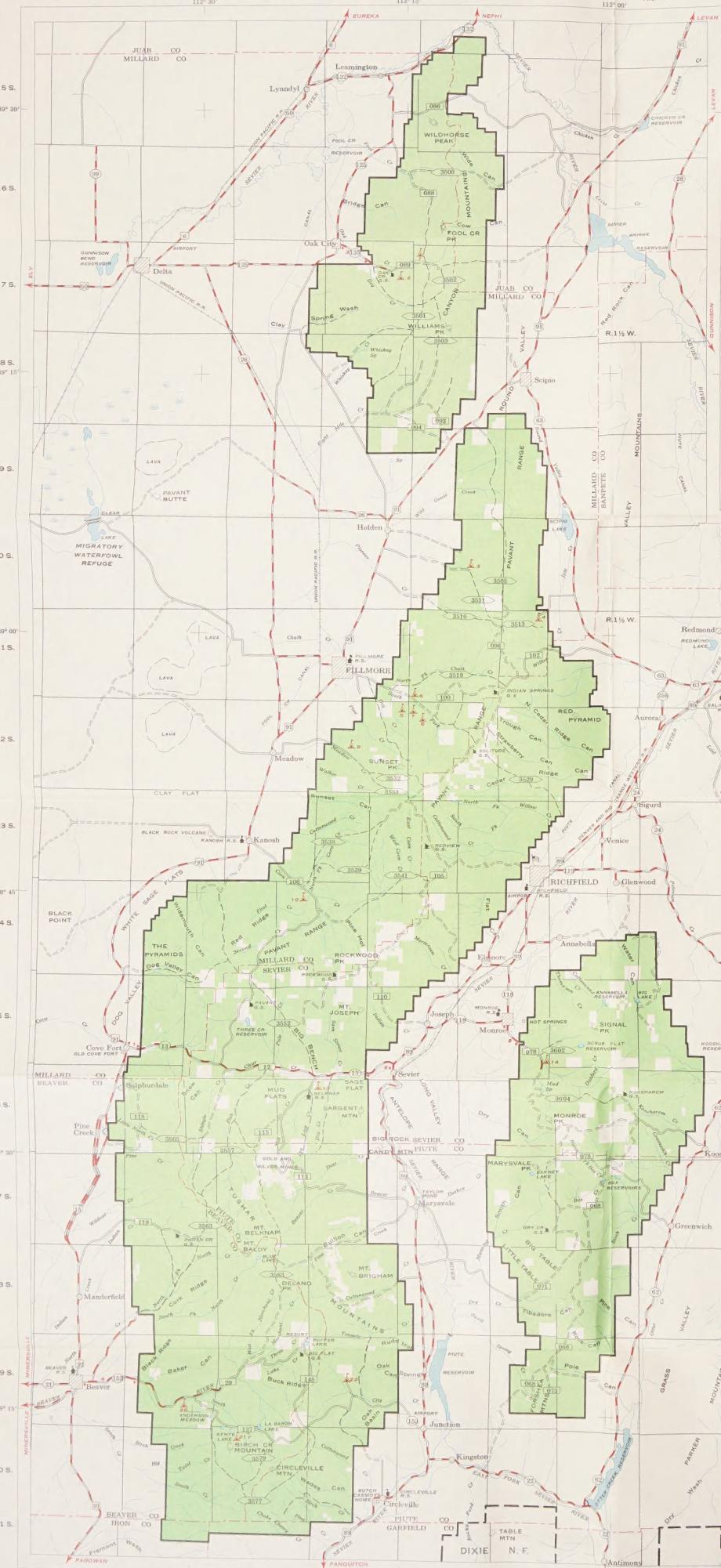
R E C R E A T I O N S I T E S

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST
UTAH
SALT LAKE MERIDIAN
S 1962

Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Primitive Road
- U. S. Highway
- State Highway
- Forest Development Roads
Road Number 40 Is Not Shown
- Trail
- Forest Supervisor's Headquarters
- Ranger Station
- Guard or Ranger Station not Permanently Occupied
- Improved Recreation Site
- National Forest Land
- Urban Areas



FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS E R. 7 W.
Compiled at Regional Office, Ogden, Utah, 1962.
R. 6 W. 112° 30' R. 5 W. 112° 15' R. 4 W. 112° 00' R. 3 W. 111° 45' R. 2 W. 111° 30' R. 1 W. 111° 15' R. 1 E. 111° 45' R. 2 E. 111° 30' R. 3 E. 111° 30' R. 4 E. 111° 30' R. 5 E. Polyconic Projection, 1927 North American datum.

